



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2010

Contact: Ed Maddox, 213-361-6980

Email: emaddox@bos.lacounty.gov

or

Contact: Jamarah Harris, 213-379-4497

Email: jharris@bos.lacounty.gov

RIDLEY-THOMAS URGES BOARD TO COMMIT TO ENDING CHRONIC AND VETERAN HOMELESSNESS WITHIN FIVE YEARS

*Supports Comprehensive Plan to Permanently House 12,000
Chronically Homeless Individuals*

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today urged the Board of Supervisors to declare the eradication of chronic and veteran homelessness by 2016 a countywide priority. Today's motion, authored by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and co-authored by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, calls for enactment of "Home for Good," a comprehensive plan developed by United Way of Greater Los Angeles' Business Leaders Task Force to permanently house 12,000 chronically homeless individuals (including 1,400 chronically homeless veterans) and 6,000 newly homeless veterans by 2016.

"With the adoption of Home for Good's clear goals and aggressive timeline for the eradication of chronic and veteran homelessness, Los Angeles County will reaffirm that it has both the will and the way to combat this overwhelming but ultimately solvable problem," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

Los Angeles County spends \$875 million each year to manage homelessness, rather than end it. Three quarters of that amount is spent on chronically homeless individuals, who comprise only one quarter of the total homeless population. These high costs result from frequent use of emergency rooms, jails, and other crisis services. Los Angeles County has a total homeless population of 45,000 individuals, with almost 39% residing in the Second District.

“This is a very ambitious plan, but we should dedicate nothing less than our full energy to meeting a challenge of such magnitude and moral significance,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “I look forward to partnering with community, business and government leaders to finally end chronic and veteran homelessness in Los Angeles County.”

#